referred to, without the supposed directly oxygenating effect of the remedy on the blood of the child. The condition of the mother's health was not specially mentioned in the cases cited by Dr. Bruce; but he (Dr. K.) thought it important to take this into consideration while estimating the value to be attached to the use of the chlorate. Dr. Keiller had often noticed that the health and spirits of females treated in this way improved very materially; this might be partly brought about by the taking of a remedy likely to promote the chance of ultimately getting a living child, for we all know the wonderfully tonic power of lively hope on the one hand, and the depressing influence of mental anxiety and dread on the other. The mere giving of a something, and the encouraging the idea of its remedial power, often acted like homœopathic charms, the patient being induced to go more about, and thus, also, favour the chances of the general condition of her health being improved. Dr. K. had at present a case in hand, the result of which he would afterwards communicate to the Society. The patient had lost seven children, and was now between six and seven months in her eighth pregnancy. She had, for the second time, come from Australia to undergo treatment likely to lead to the desired end of having a viable child. The patient was now taking the chlorate of potash in much larger doses than those spoken of by Dr. Bruce. For some time past he (Dr. K.) had been in the practice of administering the chlorate to the extent of several drachms daily in a very diluted form, the patient using it freely as a common drink.

It was very important, while watching the progress of cases, to beware of being misled by the *active movements* of the child to which Dr. Bruce had referred, as if this amounted to unfailing evidence of its safety. It often happened that immediately preceding death the fœtal movements became convulsive, or unusually strong, which, indeed, in many cases was a suspicious sign. This ought studiously to be kept in mind, for although gradual feebleness or loss of movement was usually the most noticeable sign of the child's dying, extreme or convulsive plunging frequently indicted the advent of death.

The condition, not only of the child, but of the uterine circulation, as ascertained by the use of the stethoscope, ought to be frequently seen to, and the general or constitutional evidence of fœtal danger or death should in such cases be observed.

The frequency of syphilitic influence as a common cause of fœtal death demanded our attention and remedial care. At the same time, the chlorate of potash, if it did not do away with the necessity of administering other or more special syphilitic remedies, did not interfere with their use in cases where constitutional taint from syphilis was found or supposed to exist.—*Edinburgh Med. Journ.*, January, 1866.

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40. *Procidentia Uteri.*—Dr. J. MARION SIMS read before the Obstetrical Society of London (Dec. 16, 1866) a paper on this affection. He said that a procidentia was complete when the vagina was inverted and formed its outer covering—incomplete when the cervix only passed through the vulva; that a broad pubic arch, divergent rami, a relaxed perineum, and a retroversion, were essential to its production; that in some cases the infra-vaginal cervix was elongated, and came down first, but that in the majority of chronic cases a vagino-cystocele formed the first stage of procidentia. For the first he advocated amputation of the cervix, and said this was generally alone sufficient; but for the second he preferred to narrow the vagina. This idea, he said, originated with Marshall Hall; but he did not think the operation had ever succeeded till the introduction of metallic sutures. He then gave an account of the operation from the time he first performed it in 1857 till now, showing its gradual advancement to its present state of perfection. He illustrated the subject fully by diagrams. In 1857 he narrowed the anterior wall of the vagina by exsecting a large ellipsis of it, and then bringing the lateral borders together with silver sutures. Afterwards he simply denuded the surface of its epithelial membrane; then he simplified the operation by making a V-shaped scarification; and consequently he made it trowel-shaped or triangular, the point being at the neck of the bladder, and the broad portion in juxtaposition with the cervix uteri. In all these methods, the object was to remove the cystocele, and afford a support

to the parts just at the anterior cul-de-sac. By diagrams he illustrated the method of operating, and claimed for it, when properly done, the greatest success. He did not pretend to institute a comparison between this and the perineal operation for the same trouble; but he had been driven to work out this plan in consequence of having often failed with the other. He only wished to add another resource to our means of curing such a disgusting infirmity, for we now had three methods: 1st, amputation; 2d, the perineal operation; 3d, the narrowing of the vagina, as advocated by him.

Dr. S. said that no one method of operating could be applicable under all circumstances to all cases. If there was a lacerated perineum, it was proper to restore it. If there was elongation of the infra-vaginal portion of the cervix, then the proper operation was amputation of the cervix, and this was probably all that was necessary in such cases. In the majority of cases of procidentia—in all those where a vagino-cystocele formed the first stage of descent—he was satisfied that the operation he had described, viz., that of narrowing the vagina by forming a longitudinal fold of its tissue on the anterior surface, reaching from the neck of the bladder to the neck of the womb, would be one of the safest, simplest, and best.—*Lancet*, Dec. 16, 1865.

HYGIENE.

41. *Application of Ozone to Sanitary Purposes.*—Dr. John Day describes (*Lancet*, February 3, 1866) the following simple and inexpensive method of generating ozone and of applying it to sanitary purposes:—

"Schönbein found that a little pure ether put into a bottle filled with oxygen or atmospheric air, and exposed to diffused light, the bottle being occasionally shaken, had partially changed its nature after a lapse of four months. Although producing no action on litmus paper, it discharged the colour of a solution of indigo, converted phosphorus when immersed in it into phosphorous acid, eliminated iodine from iodide of potassium, &c.; thus showing that it had acquired many of the properties of ozone. This discovery led to a mode of forming ozone by moistening the interior of a bell-glass receiver, or a large-mouthed bottle, with ether, and plunging into it a glass rod previously heated in the flame of a spirit lamp. On experimenting, some few weeks since, with ozone formed in this manner, I was surprised to find that, at the expiration of ten days, the bottle I had used, although open and freely exposed to the air, was still highly ozonized. I then ozonized a large glass vessel by the same process, and in the course of a few minutes thoroughly rubbed the interior with a towel, and found that, although the towel had become ozonized, the glass vessel still retained its power of liberating iodine from iodide of potassium, of decolorizing sulphate of indigo, of destroying sulphuretted hydrogen, &c. These properties were retained by the glass vessel and the towel for several days.

"Viewing ozone as oxygen in a dynamical condition, its increased activity giving it the power of rapidly converting the products of animal and vegetable decomposition into innocuous compounds, I began to test the power of this chemical ozone in a privy, the atmosphere of which was highly charged with sulphuretted hydrogen and probably other deleterious gases. Before commencing operations, I placed a vessel containing a weak solution of permanganate of potash on the seat, the lid being raised. In an hour the colour was perfectly destroyed. I then placed large glass jars, which had been ozonized by means of ether and a hot glass rod, in several parts of the privy; and by this, and other methods about to be described, I have kept the atmosphere so pure that a solution of permanganate of potash of the same strength as that first used will retain its colour for several days. On finding that cloths could be ozonized by merely rubbing them over an ozonized surface, I began to suspect that heat was not absolutely necessary, and on pouring a small quantity of ether into a